Statement

Credit extended under Annual Credit Plan by Commercial Banks in the districts of Jharkhand Region in Bihar during the year 1994-95

Name of the districts in the Jharkhand Region	Year 1994-95 (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Damka	503.00
2. Deoghar	538.45
3. Godda	179.00
4. Sahebgang	311.00
5. Pakur	160.13
6. Hazaribagh	266.62
7. Kodarma	(-)
8. Chatra	76.79
9. Giridih	477.77
10. Dhanbad	958.01
11. Bokaro	1247.11
12. Ranchi	2867.52
13. Gumla	260.01
14. Lohardaga	83.05
15. Singhbhum (W)	757.52
16. Singhbhum (E)	690.75
17. Palamau	690.83
18. Grahwa	228.15

(-) District was not in existence.

Clearance to consignment of Hashish by Customs Authorities

2375. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the custom authorities cleared a consignment of 423 kg. of hashish in July, 1996 at the Indira Gandhi International Airport which was seized by it earlier;

(b) if so, the reasons for clearing the consignment;

(c) whether a bogus export firm is stated to have got the consignment cleared;

(d) if so, whether the bogus export firm has been identified and brought to book; and

(e) whether the lapses on the part of the custom authorities have been enquired into and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) There was a report in Delhi edition of Indian Express dated 18.7.96 regarding seizure of hashish in Toronto, Canada from a consignment of goods exported from New Delhi. Narcotics Control Bureau has taken up further investigations in the matter and are in touch with the Canadian Authorities. The investigations are in progress. Information sought shall be laid on the Table of the House after completion of investigations.

Rise in prices despite decline in inflation

2376. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 100 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th July, 1996 and state;

(a) whether it is a fact that prices continue to rise while inflation dipped to all time low in May-June, this year;

(b) if so, the reigning prices of different essential commodities, especially consumer items at each week-end; and

(c) the main reasons for continued rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) During May-June, 1996 the annual rise in prices (inflation) was less than 5% but the rise in the prices of essential commodities ranged from allow 3.4% to a high 9.1%. The magnitude of annual increase in selected essential commodities is listed below in Table-I (*See* below).

(c) The rise in prices of some essential commodities is partly seasonal in nature or due to a marginal production short-fall in some commodities such as wheat and also due to upward revision in minimum support/ procurement prices.